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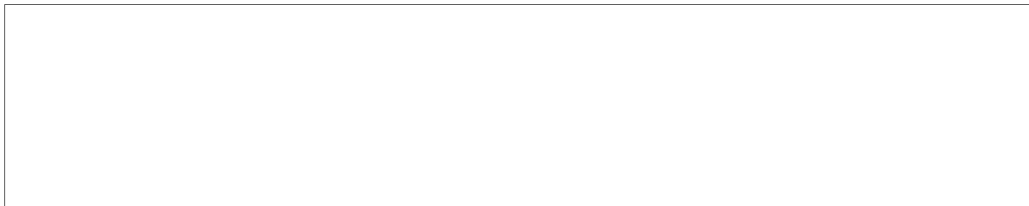
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E.O. 12356: DECL  
TAGS: MX, PREL, XK  
SUBJECT: MEXICAN PRESS REPORTS ON U.S. CONGRESSIONAL  
OBSERVATION OF CONTADORA MEETING

1. WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTADORA MEETING RECENTLY  
CONCLUDED IN PANAMA, THE MEXICO CITY DAILY "EXCELSIOR"  
REPORTED ON APRIL 8 STATEMENTS MADE IN PANAMA BY THE  
THREE U.S. CONGRESSMEN OBSERVING THE MEETING,  
REPRESENTATIVES RICHARDSON, SLATTERY, AND BARNES WHICH  
WERE CRITICAL OF THE SANDINISTAS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE THREE DEMOCRATIC  
CONGRESSMEN AFFIRMED THAT THE ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY  
NICARAGUA AND ITS CUBAN ADVISORS DURING THE MEETING  
HAD SET THE PEACE PROCESS BACK CONSIDERABLY. THEY SAID  
THAT 12 MINISTERS HAD BEEN IN AGREEMENT TO SIGN A  
COMMUNIQUE TOGETHER IN WHICH THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES  
TO FINALIZE AND SIGN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOR PEACE  
IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THAT ONLY ONE DIPLOMAT, THAT OF  
NICARAGUA, HAD BEEN OPPOSED.

3. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS,  
SAID THAT THE CONTADORA PROCESS SHOULD INCLUDE, ON THE  
PART OF THE SANDINISTAS, A REDUCTION IN ITS ARMED FORCES  
AND IN ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICIES TOWARD OTHER STATES.  
HE REPORTEDLY INSISTED THAT NICARAGUA SHOULD GIVE A  
MORE SOLID DEMONSTRATION THAT IT REALLY INTENDS TO  
BRING DEMOCRACY INSIDE ITS BORDERS, BECAUSE UNTIL NOW  
IT HAS NOT RESPECTED IT.

4. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT  
THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS DON'T APPROVE OF THE  
MILITARY HELP WHICH THE U.S. GIVES TO HONDURAS BUT HE  
ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT HAS  
COMMITTED GRAVE ERRORS, LIKE THE RECENT INCURSIONS  
IN HONDURAN TERRITORY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE DEMOCRATS  
IN CONGRESS THINK THAT THE COURSE OF THE NICARAGUAN  
REVOLUTION SHOULD BE MODIFIED, HE REPLIED, "ABSOLUTELY."  
THEY SAID THAT THE NICARAGUAN REVOLUTION HAD BEEN FOR  
THEM A VERY NEGATIVE THING. IT HAD TOTALLY PARTED  
WAYS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, HAD COMMITTED AGGRESSION  
AGAINST THE CHURCH, AND CONSTITUTED A PROBLEM WITH  
REGARD TO ACHIEVING PEACE. THE CONTRAS ALSO CONSTITUTED  
AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE. ON NEITHER SIDE WERE THERE

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ANGELS. NOBODY IN CENTRAL AMERICA HAS WHITE HATS,  
RICHARDSON ADDED. THE WAY TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND  
SECURITY IN THE REGION IS TO ENCOURAGE A PROCESS  
INVOLVING THE U.S., CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE CONTADORA  
GROUP. QUERIED WHETHER ASKING THE SANDINISTAS TO  
DISARM WAS NOT THE SAME AS ASKING THEM TO COMMIT  
SUICIDE, THE CONGRESSMAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED  
THAT THE SANDINISTAS SHOULD DISARM AND THAT THE U.S.  
SHOULD ALSO STOP AIDING THE CONTRAS. (DRAFTED:PSIEKERT)  
GAVIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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